

Amendments to the Drawing Figures:

The attached drawing sheet includes a new FIG. 1.

Attachment: New Sheet.

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this Amendment, Applicant amends the specification, including the Abstract, and adds a new drawing sheet including FIG. 1. Applicant also cancels claims 1 and 19 without disclaimer of the underlying subject matter or prejudice against future prosecution, and amends claims 2-14, 16-18 and 20-22. Accordingly, claims 2-18 and 20-22 remain pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks.

DRAWINGS

By this Amendment, Applicant furnishes a new drawing sheet with a drawing labeled as FIG. 1. The specification is also amended to make explicit reference to this new drawing.

SPECIFICATION

By this Amendment, Applicant submits a new Abstract, not exceeding 150 words, on a separate page.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for providing information about recommended section headings. However, Applicant respectfully declines to add the headings. Section headings are not statutorily required for filing a non-provisional patent application under 35 USC § 111(a), but per 37 CFR § 1.51(d) are only guidelines that are suggested for applicant's use. (See Miscellaneous Changes in Patent Practice, Response to comments 17 and 18 (Official Gazette, August 13, 1996) [Docket No: 950620162-6014-02] RIN 0651-AA75 ("*Section 1.77 is permissive rather than mandatory. ... [T]he Office will not require any application to comply with the format set forth in 1.77*")).

By this amendment, Applicant also replaces the paragraph on page 5, line 19 to correct a minor informality objected to by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action objects to all of the claims on numerous grounds.

By this Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that he has addressed all of these objections and overcome the objections, with the following exceptions.

The Office Action objects to claims 6, 11, 12, 15, 20 and 21 because they “*fail to set forth further steps in the method.*”

The undersigned attorney is unaware of any rule that requires that each dependent method claim in a U.S. patent must set forth further steps in the method. Indeed, the undersigned attorney has prosecuted dozens of issued U.S. patents which include dependent method claims that do set forth further steps in the method. Indeed, the undersigned attorney would venture that the USPTO has issued tens of thousands of presumably-valid U.S. patents which include dependent method claims that do set forth further steps in the method. Surely these patents are not all defective? Therefore, Applicant traverses this ground of objection to claims 6, 11, 12, 15, 20 and 21.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The Office Action rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

By virtue of this Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 13 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 16-20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph on various grounds.

By this Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that he has addressed all of these rejections and overcome the rejections.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 16-20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 6-12, 14, 15, 20 and 21 variously under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103 over various cited references.

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claim 1 without disclaimer of the underlying subject matter or prejudice against future prosecution, and amends claims 4, 5, 6-12, 14, 15, 20 and 21 to all depend from claim 2.

The Office Action has not indicated any prior art rejections of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103 over the various cited references.

Therefore, all of the pending claims 2-18 and 20-22 are deemed patentable over the cited references.

PROVISIONAL DOUBLE-PATENTING REJECTIONS

Applicant acknowledges the provisional double patenting rejections of claims 2 and 22 and is prepared to submit a Terminal Disclaimer if appropriate if and when these provisional rejections mature.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 2-18 and 20-22 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact

Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE & WHITT



By:

Kenneth D. Springer
Registration No. 39,843

VOLENTINE & WHITT
One Freedom Square
11951 Freedom Drive, Suite 1260
Reston, Virginia 20190
Telephone No.: (571) 283.0724
Facsimile No.: (571) 283.0740